

The Council is grounded in prevention and works to ensure justice by building equitable and effective opportunities for children, youth and families to thrive in Vermont.

Children and Families Council for Prevention Programs
A.k.a. Council for Equitable Youth Justice
Meeting Notes January 19, 2023, 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
In- Person at WSOC or [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Members Present: Karen Vastine, Mike Loner, Kreig Pinkham, Laurey Burris, Amy Davenport, Kirsten Kersey, Sparks, Stu Berry, Linda Johnson, Julia Brand, Mackenzie Mazza, Katherine O’Day, Matt Wolf, Donn Hutchins
Members Missing: Mercedes Avila, Christopher Lukasik
Partners Present: Elizabeth Morris, Tyler Allen

Updates

- Statute Change is working its way through. Don’t have too much to report out.
- Rachel Larsen has resigned

Motion to approve December Meeting Notes. Seconded. All yes. Passed (Quorum recorded at 10 for this vote)

Stu arrived virtually for the meeting

CJJ Conference Attendance:

Annual [Coalition of Juvenile Justice Conference](#): May 24-26, 2023. Donn, Christopher, Amy and Karen (for a one day) are interested.

ERD [Coalition of Juvenile Justice Conference](#): October 30-31, 2023, in Louisville, KY. Laurey is interested.

Youth CJJ Conference TBD (typically in August)

OJJDP Conference TBD (typically between October and December & focused on compliance with the core requirements)

Decision that the vote today will just be for the Annual CJJ and the ERD conference. If Amy or Karen (both of which would have a significantly reduced cost) attend, then the SAG could send “3” members (Amy + Karen combined would be less than one full person, as registration and flight would be less than \$1000 each) to the annual conference and 2 members to the ERD conference.

Motion to send “3” people to the annual CJJ conference and 2 people to ERD conference in the fall. Seconded. All yes. Passed (Quorum recorded at 11 for this vote).

Memo in Response to the DCF Proposed High-End System of Care Plan:

We have to continue to argue/point out any “mythical” aspects of juvenile crime and be diligent. The lack of data causes speculation or extremes – i.e. “Fact based on opinion.” Racism and the impact of White Supremacy Culture on these systems has a huge impact.

Katherine arrived & Linda left during this discussion (before vote)

Motion to approve the memo as proposed. Seconded. All yes. Passed. (Quorum recorded at 11 for this vote).

Annual Report:

Please note: Any small wordsmithing requests should be sent to Elizabeth and not discussed with the whole group. Please send by COB on Friday the 27th. Elizabeth walked the Council through the drafted annual report as sent out in meeting materials. Some discussion about adding in more information about Violations & decrease in funding in the Executive Summary and Final, in addition to adding some information into the CM section regarding 18 years old.

Motion to approve the annual report with the discussed additions, and with Karen’s authority to approve the final document. Seconded. All Yes. Passed. (Quorum recorded at 11 for this vote).

Committee Report Outs:

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ERD Committee Report

ERD committee submitted a proposal to spend \$80K worth of title II funding to hire a racial equity consultant to support addressing WSC within the Council.

Question: Proposal indicates that individual members would be “Interviewed” and “trained” – how is that the case?

Answer: Each person would be interviewed by the consultant in order to gauge where they are on their individual anti-racist work, and then while training will be in larger groups, there may be some small group work for people on different levels.

Who would decide who is the selected bidder? How do we as a council choose this person/entity? There are some concerns that it feels somewhat like an evaluation, and we shouldn't choose someone who is evaluating us – should non council members do the bid review? Suggestion to discuss the details of how we will move forward with the RFP at the next meeting.

Discussion regarding the cost of up to 80K for the first year – feedback was that even though that feels like a lot of money, there is high demand for this level of work. Members of the Council who have had experience with funding this kind of work expressed that 80K is low.

Motion to approve the ERD committee's proposal to utilize 80K for this level of work. Seconded. All Yes. Unanimous. Kreig abstains since he will be leaving the council after his term is over 2/28/2024. (Quorum is recorded at 12 for this vote).

Burlington School District Budget Request of an additional \$14,000 to support a full FTE within BCJC. Sparks recuses and leaves the room after a brief review of the request from the school district. Discussion that Spectrum has decided that they are not able to continue this work past quarter one, so there is an additional \$48,000 left over that is already been discussed to support this kind of work in the community.

Motion to approve proposal as submitted. All yes. Sparks Recused. No Opposed. Quorum recorded at 11. Passed.

Youth Services Report:

Utilization of SAG operating for food and reimbursement to youth for participating in scoring of the youth drop-in centers. There is now a “youth food waiver” through OJJDP (this is contingent on that approval). Motion to utilize \$1000 for food and per diem of the SAG operating budget, if necessary and approved, for the youth who assist in scoring of the bids.

Governance Committee Report:

Membership Position Description & by-laws update delayed until next meeting due to time

Systems Improvement Report:

There was discussion on the LE Restorative Justice Project:

1. The advertisement (i.e. the flyer) needs to be revamped. Many police officers are going to look at the flyer and not only think that it won't be engaging, but they don't know anything behind WHO is hosting this – who is Marc? They should utilize Chief Frank as a sounding board in order to get direct feedback on the training!
Jennifer.frank@vermont.gov
2. 4 hour trainings would be a good in between and allow department to be able to fill in for staff between shifts (i.e. cover one staff person for the first two hours of their “normal” shift, and then cover the other staff person for the last two hours of their “normal” shift. It makes it much easier to coordinate, but still would give more time than the quick one-hour overview. The best time for a four hour training is between 1 pm and 5 pm.
3. They should continue to do as many day long trainings as possible – i.e. the April training in central Vermont.

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4. Regardless, 1 hour trainings are better than nothing, so if that is all that is feasible, then it can be/should be organized.
5. Virtual trainings with the police academy may be the easiest - the academy trained almost every officer in the state on Fair and Impartial policing by hosting a few zoom trainings, recording them, and then allowing officers to remotely log in and watch partially recorded trainings. Police Academy is revamping its curriculum. The number of hours is being re-evaluated. While this is encouraging, there is a lot of competition. Chief Frank's recommendation was to advocate for a unit on Juvenile Justice that would include restorative justice training.

The Meeting ended with members sharing memories of Bob Sheil